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50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Wismut AG	DATE DISTR.	7 September 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In January 1954, Dr. Watzenhauer (fnu), chief geologist of the Wismut AG and lecturer on bismuth and uranium at the Freiberg Academy of Mining in Saxony, who had previously worked in Czechoslovakia, stated that although the area around the production plants of the Wismut AG in the Erzgebirge Mountains was still restricted, the production had decreased because of progressive exhaustion of the ore lodes and would come to an end in one or two years. He said that the mining in that area was handicapped by the fact that it had to be done at increasing depths which made drainage a major and insurmountable problem.

2. Dr. Watzenhauer stated further that the Wismut AG was, therefore, concentrating on prospecting outside the Erzgebirge and particularly in the lower Harz area, where boring operations and the sinking of an experimental shaft showed the existence of a third granite layer at a depth of 80 m. in the district between Stolberg and Harzgerode. He said that since there were no outcrops, highly thermal lodes such as those in the Erzgebirge might be present in this granite area. It had previously been assumed that any highly thermal veins following the two granite massive layers of the Brocken and the Ramberg mountains had already been exploited. He stated that the work in the lower Harz region was being rushed and deserved more attention. The searches indicated partition rock metamorphisms and bi-micaceous pegmatites allegedly bearing lepidolite (uranium mica).

3. The searches for alum shale in the Vogtland district in Thuringia and experiments on its utilization for large-scale uranium production appeared to have been unsuccessful.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC	x	OSI Hv x		

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